

Christina Venneri

Feb 20, 2019

Subject: Petition Against the Duke Energy Rate Increase

Dear Commissioners:

As a Duke Energy electric customer, I encourage you to closely examine the Duke Energy electric rate proposal (2018-319-e) when it comes before you, Specifically, I am concerned that:

Duke Energy's proposal to increase the basic facilities charge, a fixed cost from \$8.29 to over \$28. This would make this mandatory fee one of the highest in the country and much higher than the other investor-owned utility in South Carolina which recently lowered its fixed cost.

The increase in this mandatory fee takes away customer control over my energy bill robs me of the full benefit of energy conservation efforts. It is important that you protect older consumers who may live on a fixed income.

Pursue a solution that can mitigate rates increases in South Carolina.

Why should customers pay for DUKE's ongoing mistakes ...

Duke Energy Corp. will pay a \$3.5 million fine to settle an investigation into an anonymous allegation that it filed erroneous information "intended to mislead" the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in connection with its 2012 purchase of Progress Energy Inc.

Duke (NYSE: DUK) admits no wrongdoing in the settlement, approved recently by the FERC. It acknowledges that some inadvertently incorrect information was filed with the FERC explaining how Duke would work to ensure the merger did not damage competition in the Carolinas wholesale market. But it contends that the error was not intentional.

"Duke Energy is pleased that this matter, dating back to the 2012 Duke Energy-Progress Energy merger, has been resolved," Duke says in a prepared statement. "The company decided to settle this issue in order to avoid the time and expense of potential litigation."

Sincerely,  
Christina Venneri